# Introduction to the Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR)

http://tiny.cc/amrtutorial

http://amr.isi.edu/

# Why abstract?

- English provides many ways to express even simple ideas.
  - Too many to simply write down a few rules to characterize, e.g., paraphrase alternations.
- For many NLP applications, we want to abstract away from the details of English grammar.
  - What is deeper than syntax? Semantics!

## But hasn't this been done before?

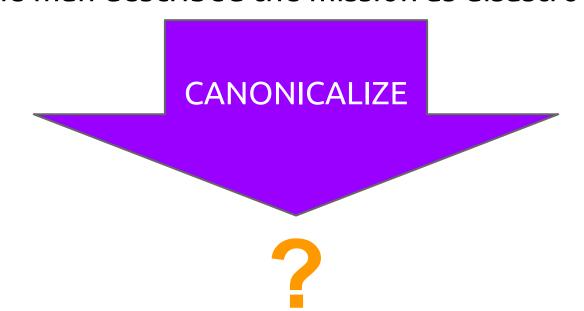
- Long tradition in linguistics and CL of formalizing semantics.
- The key insights behind AMR:
  - statistical NLP needs a semantic representation that is practical for large-scale human annotation (sembanking)
    - What is practical? limited canonicalization
  - (2) many crucial aspects of meaning can be captured with broad coverage in a single data structure

The man described the mission as a disaster.

The man's description of the mission: disaster.

As the man described it, the mission was a disaster.

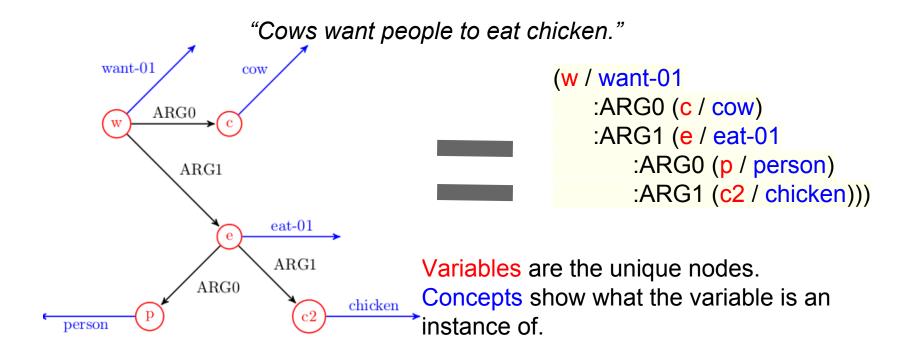
The man described the mission as disastrous.



# Roadmap for Part I of the tutorial

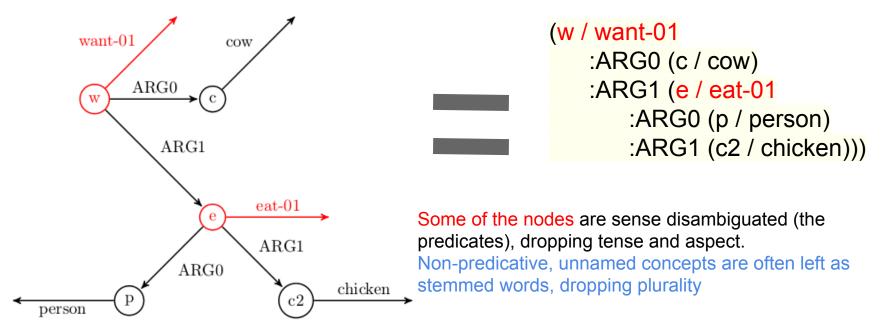
- Fundamentals of the representation
  - how AMR graphs are structured to represent concepts and relations
- Hands-on annotation practice
  - the annotation tool, simple examples
- Survey of linguistic/semantic phenomena
- Comparison to other representations
- Annotation practice
  - more realistic examples

# **AMR Notation Format (PENMAN)**



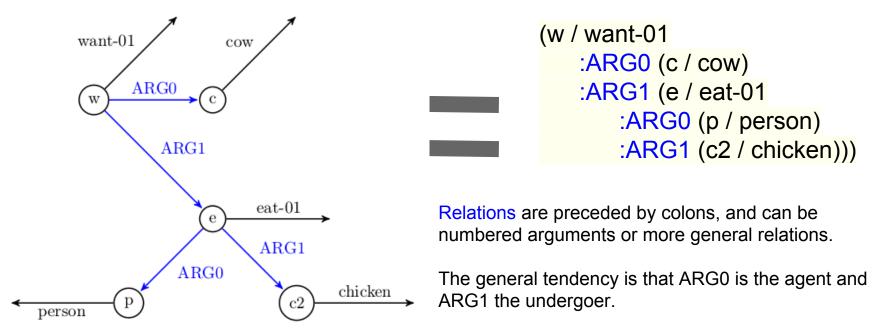
# **Variables and Concepts**

"Cows want people to eat chicken."



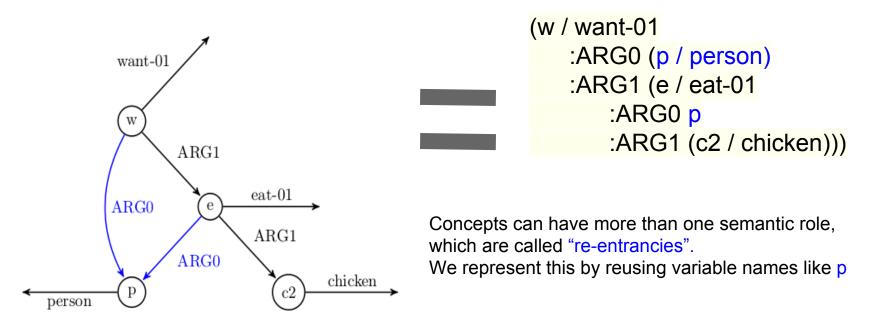
#### Relations

"Cows want people to eat chicken."



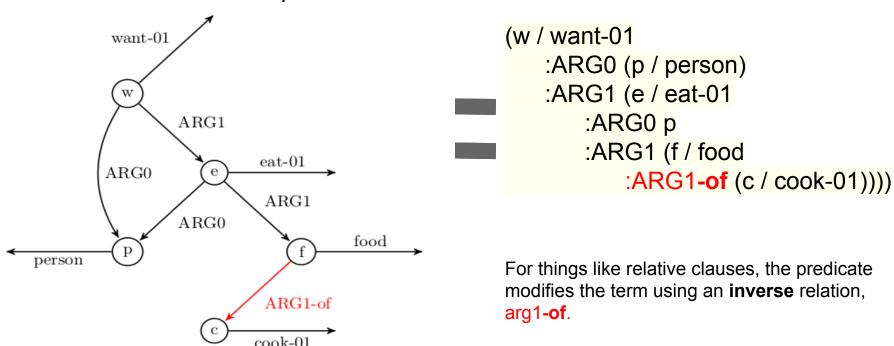
#### Re-entrancies

"People want to eat chicken."



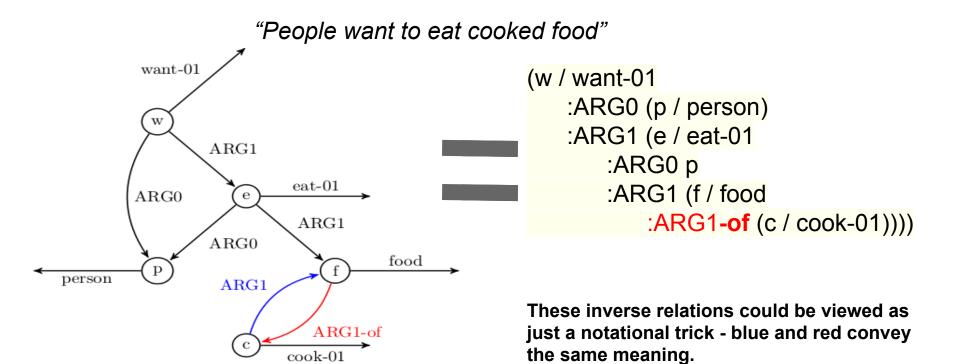
## Inverse-of relations

"People want to eat cooked food"



For things like relative clauses, the predicate modifies the term using an inverse relation,

## **Inverse-of relations**



#### Lexicon: what "want-01" and ":ARG0" mean

- AMR concepts are not merely the sentence tokens
- We use an inventory of conceptual frames for

predicates: the unified PropBank rolesets.

 The numbered (core) semantic roles are specific to each roleset. Lemma: leave (v)

<u>leave.01</u> - "move away from"

- · ARG0: entity leaving theme
- ARG1: place, person, or thing left source, location
- ARG2: attribute of arg1

more

<u>leave.02</u> - "give"

- · ARG0: giver / leaver agent
- ARG1: thing given theme
- ARG2: benefactive / given-to location, recipient, beneficiary

## Lexicon: what "want-01" and "arg0" mean

Annotators see a list that shows all possible rolesets and what each numbered argument means.

#### Lemma: leave (v)

#### leave.01 - "move away from"

- · ARG0: entity leaving theme
- ARG1: place, person, or thing left source, location
- · ARG2: attribute of arg1

#### more

#### leave.02 - "give"

- ARG0: giver / leaver agent
- ARG1: thing given theme
- ARG2: benefactive / given-to location, recipient, beneficiary

#### more

#### leave.04 - "leave for"

#### Lexicon: What it doesn't cover

- Sense disambiguation only applies to PropBank predicates (mostly events)!
- Other terms are not disambiguated.
   (Excluding named entities)

```
(o / obey-01
:ARG0 (w / we)
:ARG1 (I / law
:topic (t / thermodynamics))
:location (h / house
:mod (t2 / this)))
```

#### Lexicon: what "want-01" and ":ARG0" mean

Not doing synonym sets: etymologically unrelated terms have different rolesets

fear-01 My fear of snakes

terrify-01 I'm terrified of snakes

creep out.03 Snakes creep me out

But we do generalize across parts of speech:

fear-01

My fear of snakes
I am fearful of snakes

I fear snakes

I'm afraid of snakes

fear-01

Snakes terrify me I'm terrified of snakes

terrify-01

The man described the mission as a disaster.

The man's description of the mission: disaster.

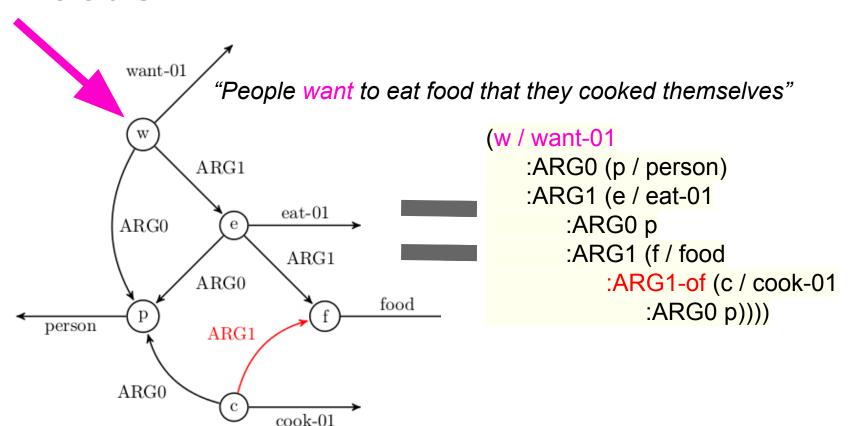
As the man described it, the mission was a disaster.

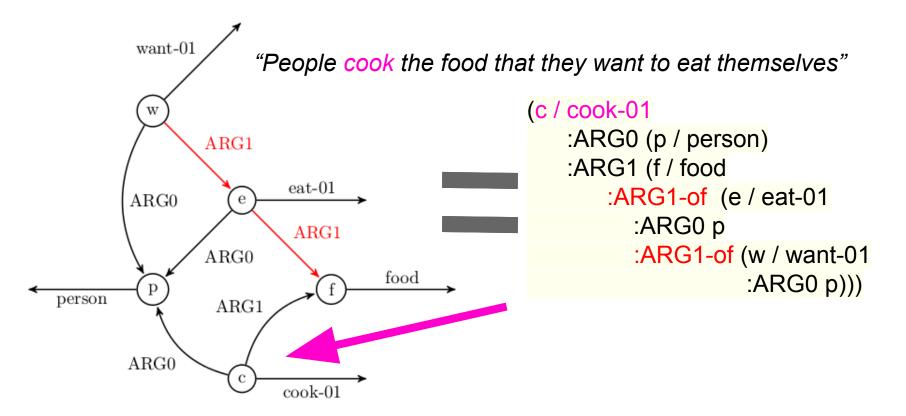
The man described the mission as disastrous.

# CANONICALIZE (d / describe-01 :ARG0 (m / man) :ARG1 (m2 / mission)

:ARG2 (d / disaster))

- Which concept should go on top?
  - Conceptually, the main assertion of (the declarative version of) the sentence.
  - Linguistically, usually the main predication of the sentence.
- The concept on top is called the focus.
  - Must be a root (no incoming edges).





```
"People want to eat food
                                         "People cook the food
that they cooked themselves"
                                        that they want to eat themselves"
(w / want-01
                                        (c / cook-01
   :ARG0 (p / person)
                                            :ARG0 (p / person)
                                            :ARG1 (f / food
   :ARG1 (e / eat-01
       :ARG0 p
                                                :ARG1-of (w/want-01
       :ARG1 (f / food
                                                  :ARG0 p
           :ARG1-of (c / cook-01
                                                  :ARG1 (e / eat-01
              :ARG0 p))))
                                                            :ARG0 p)))
```

Propositionally, these are the same! But different emphasis.

# **Attribution of properties**

Depending on focus, we use special roles : mod or :domain (these are inverses of each other).

```
the tastiness of the food
the tasty food
There is tasty food.
                                          The food is tasty.
 (f / food
                                          (t / tasty
    :mod (t / tasty))
                                             :domain (f / food))
seeing the tasty food
                                         seeing that the food is tasty
seeing the food that is tasty
 (s / see-01
                                          (s / see-01
   :ARG1 (f / food
                                             :ARG1 (t / tasty
              :mod (t / tasty)))
                                                        :domain (f / food)))
```

## **Attribution of properties**

Also for attributive/predicative demonstratives and nominals:

```
this house

(h / house
:mod (t / this))

a monster truck

(h / truck is a monster

(m / monster
:mod (m / monster))

this is a house

(h / house
:domain (t / this))
```

- Non-core arguments: not predicate-specific (not listed in lexicon)
- The boy wanted to go yesterday

 Relations that aren't predicate-specific are handled with a large inventory of non-core semantic roles.

:time	:location	:purpose	:frequency	
:topic	:poss	:part	:manner	
and many morel. The full list is in the handout				

...and many more! The full list is in the handout

- There is also another kind of numbered argument for things where the number means nothing other than order: :op#
- Apples and bananas

```
(a / and
:op1 (a2 / apple)
:op2 (b / banana))
```

- There is also another kind of numbered argument for things where the number means nothing other than order: :op#
- Competition between lions, tigers and bears

```
(b / between
:op1 (l / lion)
:op2 (t / tiger)
:op3 (b2 /bear))
```

## **Constants**

String	Numeric	
name :op1 "Yoda" :time "16:30"	:quant 5	
Named	+/-	
monetary-quantity :unit dollar :mode imperative	:polarity - :polite +	

# Constants vs. Concepts

- A concept is a type. For every concept node there will be ≥1 instance variable/node.
  - An instance can be mentioned multiple times.
  - Multiple instances of the same concept can be mentioned.
- Constants are singleton nodes: no variable, just a value. Specific non-core roles allow constant values.

# **Negation**

I am not a crook.

```
(c / crook
   :domain (i / i)
   :polarity -)
```

# **Negation**

Negation goes where it is logical:

```
I don't believe we've met.
(meaning: 'I believe we haven't met.')
(b / believe-01
    :ARG0 (i / i)
    :ARG1 (m / meet-02 :polarity -
             :ARG0 (w / we)))
```

# **Negation by morphology**

an unhappy cat

```
(c / cat
    :mod (h / happy :polarity -))
illegible writing
(t / thing
   :ARG1-of (w / write-01
```

:manner (1 / legible :polarity -)))

# Stemming plain concepts

Non-event concepts are simply stemmed (drop plurality, articles)

cats a cat the cat the cats

(c / cat)

Proper names are represented with a name node

- The words of the name are string constants
- <entity\_type> :name <name\_node>

 Wikification (:wiki <page\_name>) in followup annotation pass

- An **ontology of entity types** is used *only if you do not have a more specific term in the sentence.*
- If a specific descriptor is present, we just use that word instead of finding the closest concept in the ontology.

```
"a Ford"

(v / vehicle
:name (n / name :op1 "Ford"))

"a Ford truck"

(t / truck
:name (n / name :op1 "Ford"))
```

Ontology is large (100+ types) and hierarchical:

```
Thing Product city; city-district; county; state; province ...

vehicle; ship; aircraft; aircraft-type...
```

- There are also special entities that allow us to do very structured annotation of measurable quantities.
- "Tuesday the 19th" "five bucks" "\$3 / gallon"

```
(d / date-entity
:weekday Tuesday
:day 19
```

```
(m / monetary-quantity :unit dollar :quant 5)
```

```
(r / rate-entity-91

:ARG1 (m / monetary-quantity

:unit dollar

:quant 3 )

:ARG2 (v / volume-quantity

:unit gallon

:quant 1 )
```

### **Temporal & Value Entities**

- There are also special entities that allow us to do very structured annotation of measurable quantities.
- "Tuesday the 19th" "five bucks" "\$3 / gallon"

```
(d / date-entity(m / monetary-quantity(r / rate-entity-91:weekday (t / tuesday):unit dollar:ARG1 (m / monetary-quantity:day 19:quant 5):unit dollar:quant 3):ARG2 (v / volume-quantity:unit gallon:quant 1)
```

Designed to be similar to TIMEX normalization

#### **Pronouns**

- Pronouns with antecedents in the sentence are just reentrancies.
- Pronouns without antecedents in the sentence are just the pronoun (made nominative). "I" is lowercased.

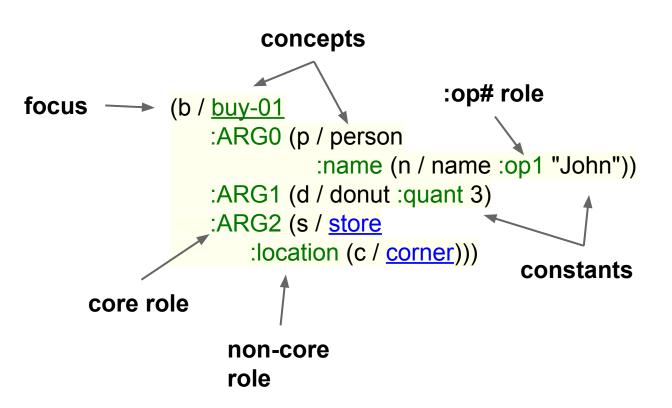
```
John, asked Mary to tutor him,

(a / ask-02
:ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "John"))
:ARG1 (t / tutor-01
:ARG0 p2
:ARG1 p)
:ARG2 (p2 / person :name (n2 / name :op1 "Mary")))
```

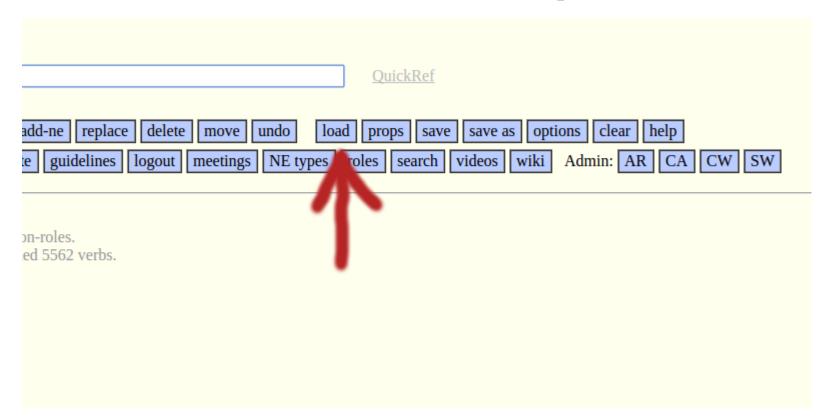
```
Mary was asked to tutor him

(a / ask-02
:ARG1 (t / tutor-01
:ARG0 p2
:ARG1 (h / he))
:ARG2 (p2 / person :name (n2 / name :op1
"Mary")))
```

#### So Remember...



http://tiny.cc/amreditor



We are loading the "NAACL-tutorial" sentences.

name (without path): .txt Load file at ISI	delete move undo load props save save as opt logout meetings NE types roles search videos wiki	ions clear help  Admin: AR CA CW SW
.Uv1.7 ▼ Snt. ID: Load ON Sentence	rman Workset:	Load workset at ISI
	name (without path): .txt	Load file at ISI
File API.	.Uv1.7 ▼ Snt. ID: Load	ON Sentence
	File API.	

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" We'll walk slowly through a first sentence.

```
(l / like-01
:ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "Tim"))
:ARG1 (r / represent-01
:ARG0 p
:ARG1 (s / semantics)
:manner (a / abstract)))

Enter text command:

QuickRe

Last command:

r :manner abstract

Or select an action template:

top add add-ne replace delete move undo exit/load prop
```

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" "top" is how to make the root

empty AMR

Enter text command: top like

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" click on "like" to see senses



"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" adding new relations: variable :role concept

(l / <u>like-01</u> )
Enter text command: [1 :arg1 represent]
Last command: replace concept at l with like-01
Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo exit/load
Workset movie-lines 10/20 edinburgh_1001.10 Save and load next Discard and load next
More: check copy dict diff generate guidelines logout meetings NE types roles

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" Everything after the third term is automatically added as a name

(l / <u>like-01</u> :ARG1 (r / <u>represent-01</u> ))	
Enter text command: 1 :arg0 person Tim	(
Last command: replace concept at r with represent.01	
Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo exit/le	oad
Workset movie-lines 10/20 edinburgh_1001.10 Save and load next Discard and load	l nex
More check copy dict diff generate guidelines logout meetings NE types re	عمام

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" Reentrancies are variable :role variable

```
(l / like-01
:ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "Tim"))
:ARG1 (r / represent-01))

Enter text command: r :arg0 p

Last command: l :arg0 person Tim

Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo

Workset movie-lines 10/20 edinburgh_1001.10 Save and load next Discard
```

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly"

Add the rest and "save and load next"

(l / <u>like-01</u> :ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "Tim")) :ARG1 (r / <u>represent-01</u> :ARG0 p :ARG1 (s / semantics) :manner (a / <u>abstract</u> )))	
Enter text command:	QuickRef
Last command: r :manner abstract	
Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo exi	t/load props
Workset movie-lines 10/Lu Save and load next Discard and lo	ad next Next

### **Another hands-on example**

"I hope Dumbledore likes my orange socks."

### **Another hands-on example**

"I hope Dumbledore likes my orange socks."

# **Advanced Topics!**

### **Decomposition into concepts**

Other contexts for introducing concepts that don't have words in the data: decomposing complex morphology.

```
A shoe salesman
```

```
(p / person
:ARG0-of (s / sell-01
:ARG1 (s2 / shoe)))
```

The Indian Government

```
(g / government-organization

:ARG0-of (g2 / govern-01

:ARG1 (c / country :name (n / name :op1 "India"))))
```

### **Decomposition into concepts**

Other contexts for introducing concepts that don't have words in the data: decomposing complex morphology.



## Throwing away light semantics

Superficial syntactic patterns (light verbs, copular constructions, ...)
 are canonicalized to a standard semantic form.

```
"John is nice"

(n / nice-41
:arg1 (p/ person :name (n /name op1 "John"))

(We don't allow "to be" at all!)

"John took a bath"

(b / bathe-01
:arg0 (p / person :name (name :op1 "John"))

all light verbs convert to the nearest verbal sense.
```

### Reification

- be-located-at-91 "reification of :location"
- ARG1: entity
  ARG2: location

- the man at the store
  - (m / man :location (s / store))
- What about: the man always at the store?
  - Need to "modify" the relation!
  - Solution: Convert ("reify") the relation w/ a special frame
  - (m / man
    - :ARG1-of (b / be-located-at-91
      - :ARG2 (s / store)
      - :time (a / always)))

### Reification

- Reification also allows a relational predicate to be focused.
- The man is at the store.
  - (b / be-located-at-91 :ARG1 (m / man):ARG2 (s / store))
- I think the man is at the store.
  - (t / think-01 :ARG0 (i / i)
     :ARG1 (b / be-located-at-91
     :ARG1 (m / man) :ARG2 (s / store)))

#### Reification

- Every role has a designated reification—either a verb frame or a special -91 frame.
  - have-purpose-91, have-polarity-91, have-part-91, ...
  - have-topic-91 concern-02
- These slides are about semantics.
  - (c / concern-02:ARG0 (s / slide :mod (t / this)):ARG1 (s2 / semantics))

### More special predicates

- Special predicates for individual/individual and individual/group relationships.
- He's a pilot for TWA.

```
    (h / have-org-role-91
    :ARG0 (h / he)
    :ARG1 (c / company :name (n / name :op1 "TWA"))
    :ARG2 (p / pilot))
```

### More special predicates

- Special predicates for individual/individual and individual/group relationships.
- I am your father.

```
(h / have-rel-role-91:ARG0 (i / i):ARG1 (y / you):ARG2 (f / father))
```

# Copying

One word can result in multiple predicates

I ate a sandwich on Thursday and sushi on Friday.

### **Set Operations**

We have a predicate "include-91" for sets

I ate five of the 12 donuts" is processed as "I ate five donut out of a set of 12 donuts"

## This is useful with our "set" predicate

"I ate 5 of the 12 donuts"

```
(e / eat-01
:ARG0 (i / i)
:ARG1 (d / donut :quant 5
:ARG1-of (i2 / include-91
:ARG2 (d2 / donut :quant 12))))
```

include.91 - "subset"

**ARG1:** subset (or member)

**ARG2:** superset

**ARG3:** relative size of subset

compared to superset

### **Set Operations**

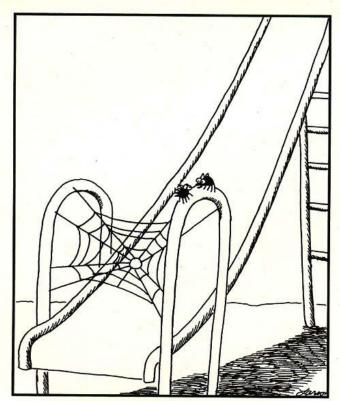
10% of smokers die of lung cancer.

```
(i / include-91
   :ARG1 (p / person
                                                        Of the set of people who
                                                        smoke....
        :ARG1-of (d / die-01
            :ARG1-of (c2 / cause-01
                                                           10% of that set ...
                :ARG0 (c / cancer
                    :mod (I / lung)))))
                                                         are people who die
    :ARG2 (p2 / person
                                                        because of lung cancer
        :ARG0-of (s2 / smoke-02))
    :ARG3 (p3 / percentage-entity :value 10))
```

### Many small additional patterns

- The AMR dictionary has conventions for many special cases.
- For example, "like" can be "resemble-01":

```
If we pull this off, we'll eat like kings
(e / eat-01
:ARG0 (w / we)
:ARG1-of (r / resemble-01
:ARG2 (e2 / eat-01
:ARG0 (k / king)))
:condition (p / pull-03
:ARG0 w
:ARG1 (t / this)))
```



"If we pull this off, we'll eat like kings."

#### Let's look at real data

```
(n / need-01
     :ARG0 (w / we)
     :ARG1 (b / borrow-01
         :ARG0 w
         :ARG1 (p / percentage-entity :value 55
             :ARG1-of (i / include-91
                :ARG2 (p2 / price
                    :mod (h / hammer))))
         :time (u / until
             :op1 (p3 / possible
                :domain (g / get-01
                    :ARG0 w
                    :ARG1 (p4 / permit-01
                        :ARG1 (p5 / plan-01)
                        :purpose-of (r / restore-01)
                        :ARG0-of (a / allow-01
                           :ARG1 (m / mortgage-01
                                   :ARG0 w))))))))
a.
```

We need to borrow 55% of the hammer price until we can get planning permission for restoration which will allow us to get a mortgage

Nearly identical AMRs: we need a loan for 55% of the hammer price of the full hammer price, we just need to borrow 55%

#### Let's look at real data

```
(n / need-01
     :ARG0 (w / we)
     :ARG1 (b / borrow-01
         :ARG0 w
         :ARG1 (p / percentage-entity :value 55
             :ARG1-of (i / include-91
                :ARG2 (p2 / price
                    :mod (h / hammer))))
         :time (u / until
             :op1 (p3 / possible
                :domain (g / get-01
                    :ARG0 w
                    :ARG1 (p4 / permit-01
                        :ARG1 (p5 / plan-01)
                        :purpose-of (r / restore-01)
                        :ARG0-of (a / allow-01
                           :ARG1 (m / mortgage-01
                                   :ARG0 w))))))))
a.
```

We need to borrow 55% of the hammer price until we can get planning permission for restoration which will allow us to get a mortgage

identical AMRs until such time as we get permission to plan for restoration up until we get permits for restoration planning

#### Let's look at real data

```
(n / need-01
   :ARG0 (w / we)
   :ARG1 (b / borrow-01
       :ARG0 w
       :ARG1 (p / percentage-entity :value 55
           :ARG1-of (i / include-91
              :ARG2 (p2 / price
                  :mod (h / hammer))))
       :time (u / until
           :op1 (p3 / possible
              :domain (g / get-01
                  :ARG0 w
                  :ARG1 (p4 / permit-01
                      :ARG1 (p5 / plan-01)
                      :purpose-of (r / restore-01)
                      :ARG0-of (a / allow-01
                         :ARG1 (m / mortgage-01
                              :ARG0 w))))))))
```

We need to borrow 55% of the hammer price until we can get planning permission for restoration which will allow us to get a mortgage

similar AMRs permits allowing us to get a mortage

### **English Datasets**



AMR Bank: *The Little Prince* (novel; English translation)





LDC Releases (news, discussion forums, etc.)

#### **Data**

- AMR Bank (Release 1.4; <a href="http://amr.isi.edu/download/amr-bank-v1.4.txt">http://amr.isi.edu/download/amr-bank-v1.4.txt</a>)
  - English translation of *The Little Prince*, freely downloadable
- AMR Public Release 1.0 (LDC2014T12): largest public release w/ 13,051 AMRs
- DEFT Release 3 (LDC2013E117): evaluation data in Flanigan et al 2014, Wang et al 2015.
- DEFT Release 4 (LDC2014E41): largest release w/ 18,779 AMRs total
- DEFT Release 5 (Sep. 2015) will include wikification, (pretty much) no directed cycles
- Small (100-AMR) sets of Czech and Chinese AMRs have been annotated.
- Vanderwende et al. (2015) data to appear: several languages, automatically converted from logical forms
- PropBank will soon all be converted to AMR style (mapping nominalizations to verbs, etc) and re-released.

# **Comparison - Semantic Roles**

**AMR:** 70+ non-core roles, many verb-sense specific roles (up to 5 args/roleset, more than 10,000 rolesets)

FrameNet: large inventory of frame-specific roles

**VerbNet:** inventory of thematic roles

Groningen Meaning Bank: VerbNet inventory

Most others: small inventory of roles (agent, theme, etc.)

## Comparison - Sense Lexicon

Groningen Meaning Bank: (automatic) WordNet synsets FrameNet/UCCA: Mark senses by frame/script, not lemma

AMR /PropBank: coarse-grained senses (get high ITA)

Prague Dependency TB: valency lexicon rolesets

Most others: undisambiguated concepts as predicates

# **Comparison - Entities**

**AMR:** Rich named entity ontology (100+ types), wikification

GALE/Ontonotes Annotations: 29 types, 64 subtypes
Groningen Meaning Bank: 7 NE types
Domain-specific (ACE/UMLS/etc.): rich; not all entities

Others: no entity typing

# **Comparison - Alignment with text**

**Deepbank; Groningen Meaning Bank:** Semantics linked up to a theory of its derivation from syntax (HPSG; CCG)

PropBank, Semantic Treebank: grounded in PTB Most others: Some link to words in sentence

AMR: No alignment to text (plan to release a few alignments)

# Comparison - Logic/Scope/Entailments

**Deepbank; Groningen Meaning Bank:** Semantics grounds out in logical formalisms (DRT and MRS, respectively)

**AMR entailment:** linkage between its lexicon and VerbNet may allow rich decomposition

AMR scope: No scope of quantification

# **Comparison - Size and Quality**

**AMR:** 18,779 sentences, goes beyond newswire, fully manual **Prague Dependency TB:** WSJ in Czech and English, manual

**Deepbank; Groningen Meaning Bank:** Large; automatic parses with human correction/feedback.

**UCCA**: fully manual, 160k tokens

Rich semantic systems with little affiliated data: TMR, LCS,